

How to Improve Your Academic English

Getting the most out of an English-speaking environment

EAP Workshop: Thursday, January 22, 2015

Presenter: Lisa Oglesbee
Instructor of English for Academic Purposes (EAP)

English for Academic Purposes (EAP)

cslc.nd.edu/eap

EAP Fellows

Justus Ghormley
Amanda Wepler

Courses

Pronunciation
Writing
Presentations

Workshops & Blog

Tutoring

EAP Fellows
Alessio Compagnino

Notre Dame Professional Development

Mission Statement

The mission of the Professional Development Program is to enhance the academic training of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars within the areas of **research, teaching, career, and ethics**.

For upcoming events, visit gradconnect.nd.edu/portal/prof-dev-events

The Learning Process

Pair Work:

- Describe a skill or aptitude you developed over time. (ex: musical instrument)
- What was the key to mastery?
- What advice would you give to a novice?

Practicing consistently in meaningful blocks of time each day is better than practicing for several hours just once a week.

World Englishes

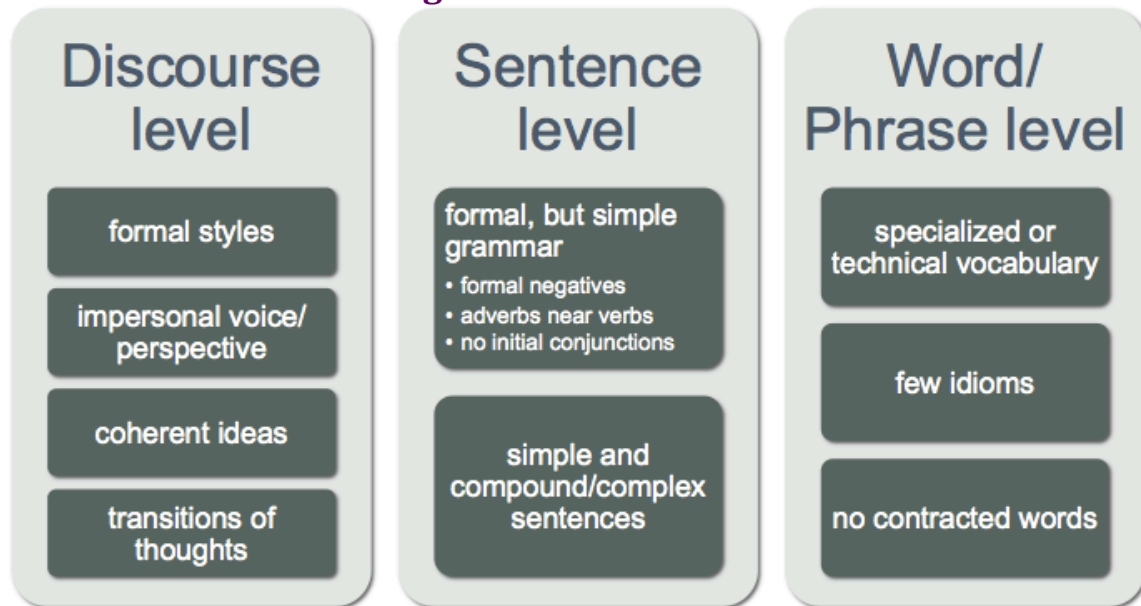
How many different types of English can you think of?

- British English
- American English
- Australian English
- Caribbean English
- Hong Kong English
- Philippine English
- Singaporean English
- South African English
- Indian English
- Hip-hop English
- ...?

What is Academic English?

- How is the language we use in conversation different from the language used to explain or teach something complex?
- **Write down 3-5 features of Academic English.**
- Share them with your partner

Features of Academic English



Second Language Acquisition

"We believe that what the learner does to learn a foreign language is far more important than what the teacher teaches."

The ABCs of Languages and Linguistics: A Basic Introduction to Language Science"

by Curtis Hayes, Jacob Ornstein & William Gage

What does this quote say to you about building language skills?

What kinds of things do YOU do when learning a new language?

Language Skills for Mastery

- Writing
- Reading
- Speaking
- Listening
- Vocabulary
- Grammar

Improving Your Writing

Areas for Improvement:

- Structure
- Parts of Speech
- Punctuation & Grammar
- Reasoning

Further Reading:

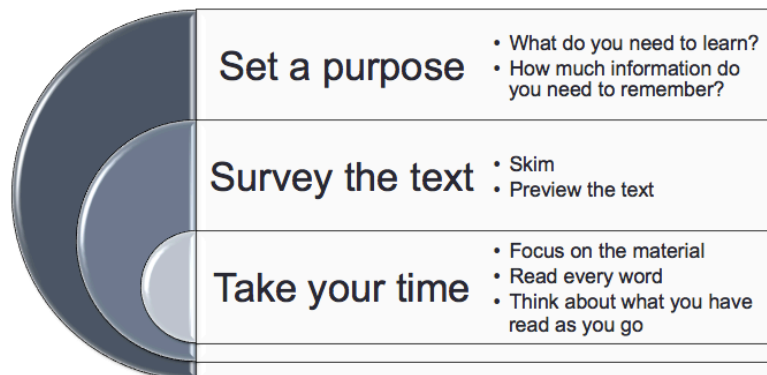
- Purdue OWL
 - <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl>
- The Little Red Writing Book
 - <http://www.uh.edu/honors/human-situation/LittleRedWritingBook.pdf>

EAP Workshops for Writing:

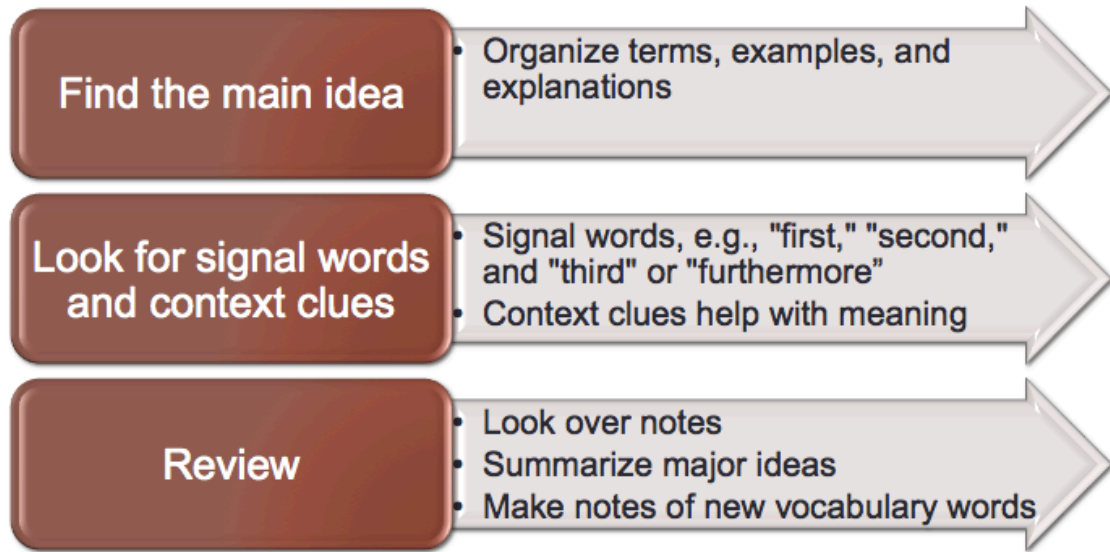
Date	Topic	Presenter
Mon. Feb 2	CVs for International Students	Justus Ghormley
Mon. Feb. 16	Paraphrasing, Using Sources Effectively & Avoiding Plagiarism	Justus Ghormley
Mon. March 2	Email Etiquette	Justus Ghormley
Wed. April 1	Organizing a Research Paper	Amanda Weppler
Tues. April 21	Editing and Revising Academic Writing	Amanda Weppler

Developing Your Reading Skills

General Reading Strategies



Specific Reading Strategies



Advancing Your Speech

- How much time do you spend actually *speaking* English each week?
 - **Not** listening to a lecture or other students
 - **Not** getting explanations in your own language about how the language works
 - **Not** watching TV/Movies or listening to the radio
- How much time do you spend on focused speaking practice?

SEAMAP



Speak
English
As
Much
As
Possible



Take what you need from each and every communication encounter.

Continuously review your progress.

EAP Workshops for Speaking:

Date	Topic	Presenter
Wed. Jan 28	Interviewing and Networking Strategies for International Students	Amanda Weppler
Tues. Feb. 10	English Pronunciation Strategies and Techniques	Amanda Weppler
Mon. April 13	Talking with Others About Your Research	Justus Ghormley

Enhancing Your Listening Skills

Tips:

1. Keep your focus on the message.
 - Make a determined effort to return to focus when your mind begins to wander.
 - Make mental summaries of the speaker's main ideas.
2. Try to predict the speaker's next main idea.

These two hints will help to keep you actively involved in what the speaker is saying.

Building Your Vocabulary

When do you know a new word or phrase has been added to your vocabulary? When you...

- know what it means (Definition)
- know how to say it (Pronunciation)
- know how to spell it (Spelling)
- know when and when not to use it (Context & Grammar)

- **can use the word/phrase with confidence**

Vocabulary Notebooks:

- Pay attention to what you hear and read.
- Identify words and phrases you want to learn.
 - **Write them down in an organized place**
- Look up the definition and usage.
- Practice your words daily.
 - Choose **NO MORE** than 4-5 to practice each week.
- Building Your Vocabulary

EAP Workshop for Vocabulary:

Tues. March 17	Enhancing Your Vocabulary	Amanda Weppler
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Boosting Your Grammar



Setting Goals

Make a plan for improving your Academic English:

- Set realistic goals
- Learn about the features of academic English
- Read for more than just content
- Record and listen to yourself
- Build self-monitoring skills
- Use your new vocabulary in your daily life
- Gain confidence and comfort

Looking for advice

Read the following situation with a partner and discuss possible solutions for Sam. Sam is preparing to give a presentation at an academic conference at the end of the semester. Currently he does the following:

- He reads various articles on the topic of the presentation for 1-2 hours a week.
- He writes notes on the topic for 30 minutes once a week.
- For the remaining hours of the week, he is focused on other things.
- He usually works individually in the lab, at the library, or at home.
- Sam only talks to his professors and colleagues about other topics: what is going on in the lab, what classes to take, etc.

Read the following situation with your partner and discuss possible solutions for Mae.

Mae is trying to improve her spoken English. Currently she does the following:

- She goes to EAP workshops occasionally and has never made an appointment with an EAP tutor.
- She usually works individually in her lab, at the library, or at home.
- Although she watches English language TV, she speaks very little.
- She only occasionally speaks with her professors outside of class.
- Most of Mae's friends are from her native country, so when she socializes with friends she usually speaks her native language.

Resources on Campus

- English for Academic Purposes
 - <http://cslc.nd.edu/eap/>
- International Student and Scholar Affairs (ISSA)
 - <http://issa.nd.edu/>
- University Writing Center
 - <http://writingcenter.nd.edu>
- Register for EAP Workshops:
 - <https://gradconnect.nd.edu/portal/prof-dev-events>
- Sign up for Tutoring Sessions:
 - cslc.nd.edu/eap/tutoring